United Nations

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MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

◆ United Nations mission, back from Iraq, recommends lifting of sanctions by Security Council.

◆ Security Council holds informal consultations on United Nations inspections of Iraqi nuclear sites and equipment. Members hear from Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar; Chairman of United Nations Special Commission on Iraqi disarmament, Swedish Ambassador Rolf Ekeus; and Executive Director of International Atomic Energy Agency, Hans Blix.

◆ Iraq, in identical letters to Secretary-General and Security Council President, complains that United States threatens to carry out further large-scale military attacks.

◆ United Nations Verification Mission in El Salvador to begin operation on 26 July.

◆ Inter-agency appeal is launched for additional $250 million in emergency assistance for people afflicted by drought and famine in the Horn of Africa.

◆ Indian Ocean Committee concludes session with report to General Assembly proposing first-stage conference in Sri Lanka next year.

◆ International Fund for Agricultural Development and Bangladesh sign $10 million loan agreement for a small livestock development to help rural landless.

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A United Nations assessment mission which returned from Iraq has recommended that the Security Council lift sanctions in order to let the country address its urgent humanitarian needs.

The mission called on the Sanctions Committee of the Security Council to allow Iraq to sell oil to earn money needed to buy food and to improve health, water and sanitation services as well as power generation and the

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telecommunication sector. The mission said a monitoring system should be set up to ensure that supplies and services were made available to those who needed them.

In a foreward to the report to the Secretary-General, Executive Delegate Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan said "the tragic consequences of the Gulf conflict, the untold loss of life and destruction, were compounded by massive displacement of ill-prepared populations, by ecological disasters of unprecedented magnitude, by the collapse of the structures that sustain life in today's human societies". He went on to say the upheaval's effects were leading to "the gradual but inexorable collapse of essential services, risking a humanitarian crisis whose eventual dimensions would dwarf today's difficulties".

According to a United Nations spokeswoman, Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan will come to New York this Sunday, 21 July, and will address the Security Council's Sanctions Committee next Monday or Tuesday.

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The Security Council held informal consultations today to discuss United Nations nuclear inspections and Iraqi compliance. During the meeting, Council members heard from Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, as well as from the Chairman of the Special Commission on Iraqi disarmament, Swedish Ambassador Rolf Ekeus; and the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Hans Blix.

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Iraq has complained of threats by the United States to carry out further military attacks.

In identical letters to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, Iraq has claimed that the United States continues to conduct "a frenzied and large-scale campaign of threats" to carry out further military action against Iraq, despite Iraq's "serious and active cooperation" with the Security Council's cease-fire resolution.

The letters, dated 12 July, signed by Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmad Hussein, and transmitted to the United Nations by Ambassador Abdul Amir Al-Anbari, referred specifically to the high-level United Nations mission which was sent to Iraq to guarantee Iraqi compliance with nuclear inspections teams. The letters state that the United States is using the issue of non-compliance as a pretext to conduct a massive military attack and has declared its intention to strike at nuclear locations and equipment.

According to the letters, Iraq has accepted all the resolutions adopted by the Security Council and has already declared its absolute willingness to enable the United Nations inspections to visit and view all locations with safety and security.

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Iraq also asserted that American officials wish to maintain economic sanctions against Iraq and interfere in its internal affairs, and asked the Security Council to put an end to what it called "this aggressive behaviour" on the part of the United States.

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It was announced today that the establishment of the United Nations Verification Mission in El Salvador is planned for 26 July. It will be known by its Spanish acronym ONUSAL (Observadores de las Naciones Unidas en El Salvador). The Mission was authorized by the Security Council in its resolution 693 of 20 May; and its mandate will be to verify compliance by the parties with the provisions of the Agreement on Human Rights signed between the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN) in San Jose in July 1990.

The deployment of ONUSAL has been planned in two phases. During the first, to last about 60 days, the Mission will establish its central offices and four regional offices (San Salvador, San Miguel, Santa Ana and San Vicente), organize its operations, familiarize itself with the administration, legal and judicial systems in El Salvador and establish working contacts and procedures.

In the second phase, tentatively scheduled for October, ONUSAL will undertake its full functions, which will be: active monitoring of the human rights situation in El Salvador; investigation of specific cases of alleged violations of human rights; promotion of human rights in El Salvador; making recommendations to eliminate violations of, and to promote respect for, human rights; reporting to the Secretary-General and, through him, to the Security Council and the General Assembly.

The ONUSAL will be headed by Iqbal Riza, in the capacity of Special Delegate of the Secretary-General with the rank of Assistant Secretary-General. The Director for Human Rights Verification will be Philippe Texier, at present a Juge de Grande Instance in Evry, whose services have been made available by the Government of France.

The Mission has been authorized by the Security Council up to 30 June 1992.

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Today, at a press conference at United Nations Headquarters, attention was drawn to the ongoing crisis in the Horn of Africa and the United Nations response. Outlining the current financial situation, James Grant, the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); James Ingram, Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP); and James Jonah, Under-Secretary-General for the Department of Special Political Affairs, said an additional $250 million was needed this year to cover emergency relief requirements. Mr. Ingram stressed that the crisis was not new and would take several years to solve. He said the drought was just as bad as in 1983-1984,

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and there was an added complication of people moving across frontiers. In addition, he said there was a need to address agricultural production and development. Mr. Grant said the situation was acute and would continue to deteriorate until the next rainy season.

The officials said there was recognition that there could be no end to famine in Africa so long as there was civil conflict. They also said there was a need for increased coordination between the countries involved and that the United Nations had a role to play in bringing the parties together to stop the fighting.

In that light, Mr. Jonah announced that the Secretary-General had asked him to travel to the Horn region on 29 and 30 July to speak to the parties involved in order to remove underlying difficulties regarding the provision of humanitarian assistance.

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The Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean concluded its second and final session for 1991, on Friday, 12 July, with a report to the General Assembly proposing a first-stage Conference on the Indian Ocean to be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in 1992. Following the conclusion of the first stage, the merit of holding two additional stages should be considered.

It is envisaged that the Conference will lead to the implementation of the 1971 General Assembly Declaration on the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace.

The Committee decided that it would defer the matter of the draft final document of the Conference to the Conference itself.

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The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Government of Bangladesh have launched a new small livestock development project that will assist hundreds of thousands of landless rural men and women in Bangladesh to become more productive and self-reliant.

The IFAD's President, Idriss Jazairy, and Bangladesh's Ambassador to Italy, Waliur Rahman, have signed a $10.8 million loan agreement that, along with cofinancing by the Danish International Development Agency and the Government of Bangladesh, will support the $15.1 million small livestock development project.

Under its mandate, IFAD provides the rural poor with the resources and support they need to build a better life for themselves. This new project is regarded as an important step towards improving food security and incomes of the vulnerable people of Bangladesh.

Referring to the recent loss of lives and devastation of homes and crops caused by the April cyclones in Bangladesh, Mr. Jazairy said that, although IFAD was not an emergency relief organization, the situation in the country and IFAD's long association with its rural development programmes had spurred the Fund to consider the acceleration of the building of emergency shelters in cyclone- and flood-prone areas of the country.

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